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Maryland, New York and District  
of Columbia only)**FACSIMILE**

To: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Fax: 703-872-9306  
From: Ronald Reichman  
Date: 5 February 2004  
Subject: Serial No. 09/728,152 Attorney Docket F-120)

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Page 1 of 3

Attached is the Status Inquiry (2 pages).

**CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that the following correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile No. 703-872-9306 on 5 February 2004.

Esther A. Lapin  
Name of Agent

Esther A. Lapin  
Signature

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED  
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In re patent application of: ) Date: February 5, 2004  
Michael H. Gilbert ) Attorney Docket No.: F-120  
Serial No.: 09/728,152 ) Confirmation No.:  
Filed: December 1, 2000 ) Group Art Unit:  
Title: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR VERTICAL MESSAGING, BILLING  
AND PAYMENT SERVICES**

**STATUS INQUIRY - NEW PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

More than thirty-eight (38) months have passed since the filing of the above-identified patent application on December 1, 2000. In response to a Status Inquiry mailed August 20, 2002, Applicant received a response from the United States Patent and Trademark office mailed September 11, 2002, indicating that it would be "15 months before this application will receive a first office action." No further Communication has been received from the Patent and Trademark Office indicating action on this application.

Therefore, applicant wishes to inquire as to the present status of the above-identified pending patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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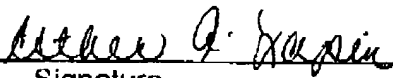
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Name of Rep.

  
Signature

February 5, 2004  
Date

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